



FEMA

National Flood Insurance Program Biennial Report

General Information

- **FEMA Publications:** FEMA Distribution Center at 1-800-480-2520
- **NFIP Info:** www.fema.gov/nfip or 1-800-427-4661
- **FEMA Flood Map Store:** <http://store.msc.fema.gov> or 1-800-358-9616
- **FEMA Regions and Contacts:** www.fema.gov/fhm/fp_key.shtm
- **HAZUS:** www.fema.gov/hazus
- **Floodplain Manager's Information:** http://www.fema.gov/fhm/fp_main.shtm

Floodplain Manager Resources

- **Emergency Management Institute:** www.training.fema.gov/emiweb
- **Online Tutorials:** www.fema.gov/fhm/ot_main.shtm
- **FEMA Floodplain Management Publications** <http://www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm#floodplain>
- **State NFIP Coordinators Contact Information** <http://www.floods.org/StatePOCs/stcoor.asp>
- **Association of State Floodplain Managers Certified Floodplain Manager Program** <http://www.floods.org/Certification/certprog.asp>

Map Modernization

- **Mapping Information Platform:** <http://hazards.fema.gov>
- **Map Viewer:** <http://hazards.fema.gov/mapviewer>
- **MHIP:** www.fema.gov/fhm/mh_main.shtm
- **DFIRM Database Homepage:** www.fema.gov/fhm/dfm_dfdb.shtm
- **The Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Program:** www.fema.gov/fhm/ctp_main.shtm
- **The CTP Assessment Tool:** www.fema.gov/fhm/ot_ctpr.shtm

FEMA Regional Contacts

- **FEMA Region I** (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT) (617) 956-7571
- **FEMA Region II** (NY, NJ, PR, USVI) (212) 680-3625
- **FEMA Region III** (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WVA) (215) 931-5512
- **FEMA Region IV** (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) (770) 220-5416
- **FEMA Region V** (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) (312) 408-5548
- **FEMA Region VI** (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX) (940) 898-5127
- **FEMA Region VII** (IA, KS, MO, NE) (816) 283-7002
- **FEMA Region VIII** (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) (303) 235-4830
- **FEMA Region IX** (AZ, CA, Guam, HI, NV, CNMI, RMI, FSM, American Samoa) (510) 627-7184
- **FEMA Region X** (AK, ID, OR, WA) (425) 487-4682

Options for Submittal of Biennial Report Data

The following four options are available for submitting the report:

1. To submit your Biennial Report form online please go to <http://www.floodmaps.gov/br2005> using the PIN provided
2. Mail the completed paper copy to the Biennial Report Coordinator at the address written below.
3. Fax the form to 1-877-NFIP-BR1 (1-877-634-7271)*
4. Call the Biennial Report Coordinator toll free at 1-877-FEMA-114 (1-877-336-2114)*, who will be available to answer questions and complete the online report on your behalf using the information you supply *These numbers will be available until August 2005

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Biennial Report Coordinator
3601 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304**

This document is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), now part of the Department of Homeland Security, to give communities helpful information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Biennial Report. You will find useful information on how to submit and complete the report, why the requested data are important, and where to go for more information.

What is the NFIP Biennial Report?

Every two years FEMA collects data from communities participating in the NFIP through the Biennial Report process. This provides communities an opportunity to identify floodplain mapping needs and request assistance in implementing a floodplain management program. The Biennial Report provides FEMA information on a community's floodplain management program and changes in its flood hazard areas, which assists FEMA to evaluate the effectiveness of a community's floodplain management activities. The Biennial Report shows FEMA nationwide trends and patterns, which FEMA uses to help guide improvements to the NFIP.

How will FEMA use the Biennial Report Data?

Over 20,000 communities participate in the NFIP. This includes large communities with tens of thousands of structures at risk as well as small communities with no more than a handful of properties at risk. Understanding the characteristics of these communities and their needs is a difficult task for FEMA. The data gathered from the Biennial Report will be used to plan mapping activities, organize training opportunities and plan technical assistance meetings and other activities with local officials.

Section I

Biennial Report information from Section I will be used by FEMA to help create an inventory of mapping needs. If your community has changes in flood hazard data that warrants a restudy and you have already conveyed those needs to FEMA or your NFIP State Coordinating Agency, then answer "yes" to the applicable questions in Section I and FEMA will include this response to the existing restudy needs information on record for your community. If you have restudy needs that are new or have not been conveyed to FEMA or your NFIP State Coordinating Agency, proceed to answer "yes" to the questions in Section I and call the Biennial Report Coordinator at (1-877-336-2114) to indicate your previously unreported restudy needs. We are aware that many communities have already provided information directly to FEMA or through their NFIP State Coordinating Agency about map update needs and appreciate this cooperation. Mapping needs information is evaluated and entered into the Mapping Needs Update Support System (MNUSS), which is used by FEMA as a starting point for prioritizing map updates. Thirty-one percent of the Biennial Report recipients in 2003 indicated on their Biennial Report form that they needed a mapping restudy.

Section II

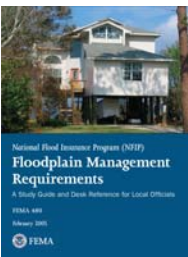
Information from Section II will be used to more fully understand a community's floodplain management program based upon the number of structures in a community's floodplain, the number of permits issued in the floodplain, and whether variances have been issued. Section II also invites a community to indicate if it needs technical assistance in improving its local floodplain management program. All of this information is used by FEMA Regional Offices to plan their technical assistance and outreach for NFIP communities. In 2003, 18% of Biennial Report recipients requested technical assistance by answering "yes" to any of the questions in Section II.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. I am new to my duties as the local floodplain administrator. What basic information or opportunities do you have that could help me with my job?



A. It is highly recommended that you contact the **NFIP State Coordinator (NFIPSC)** for your state, explain your situation and ask what he or she might recommend. FEMA has worked with each state to designate an NFIPSC for the specific purpose of providing technical assistance and guidance to local officials of NFIP participating communities. NFIPSC contact information is available from the FEMA Regional Office that serves your location (see last page for phone number) and from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Website at www.floods.org. FEMA has developed a wide variety of resources and opportunities to familiarize local officials with their responsibilities to implement a floodplain management program at the local level. The **FEMA publications warehouse** (800) 480 – 2520 has several technical bulletins and other publications that are useful to the local floodplain administrator. The *User's Guide to Technical Bulletins* (FIA-TB-0) provides a list of all technical bulletins that are available.



FEMA has just recently completed a new publication; *The National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Management Requirements: A Study Guide and Desk Reference for Local Officials* which will be available from the publications warehouse in June 2005. The **Study Guide** can serve three purposes. First, it can be used as a study guide to enhance the knowledge and skills of local officials responsible for administering and enforcing local floodplain management regulations in accordance with the requirements of the NFIP. Second, it is intended to provide a broader understanding of floodplain management concepts and principles.

And finally, local officials and others can use the study guide to help them study for the exam for the Certified Floodplain Manager designation, discussed later in this bulletin.

FEMA's **Emergency Management Institute (EMI)**, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, serves as a national facility for the development and delivery of emergency management training including floodplain management associated with the NFIP. EMI offers six resident courses that specifically target flood risk topics and numerous additional courses related to flooding. For more information, visit FEMA's EMI website at www.training.fema.gov/emiweb or call (301) 447-1200.

Q. I have been the floodplain administrator for my community for over a year and encounter increasingly difficult challenges. What can I do to significantly advance my understanding of floodplain management principals?



A. The ASFPM, with support from FEMA, has established the "**Certified Floodplain Managers Program**" (CFM®), a national program that issues a professional certification for floodplain managers. Individuals who register for and successfully complete the CFM exam will receive the CFM designation. A CFM will have demonstrated their knowledge and skills by achieving a passing score on their exam and have committed to the continuing education credits of the program. Becoming a CFM advances an individual's knowledge and skills in implementing the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP. For more information on the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager program, please visit the ASFPM website www.floods.org/home/ or contact ASFPM at (608) 274-0123 or via e-mail at asfpm@floods.org. In addition to pursuing the CFM program, local floodplain administrators are encouraged to become involved with any state floodplain management associations or organizations that host technical workshops and other training events.

The ASFPM website lists state floodplain management association contact information. FEMA Regional Offices and NFIPSCs also host training sessions on a regular basis.

Q. I have heard about FEMA's NFIP Map Modernization initiative. Exactly what is the initiative and what can I expect from the initiative for my community?

FLOOD MAP MODERNIZATION

A. Map Modernization is a multiyear effort to provide updated digital flood hazard information for all areas in the United States where there is flood risk. Map Modernization uses state-of-the-art technology to produce flood maps and data that are more reliable, easier-to-use, quicker to update, and readily available to communities.

Q. What new tools or resources are now available to communities as a result of Map Modernization?

A. Several **online tutorials** have been developed by FEMA to support its Map Modernization effort. These tutorials provide in-depth training in different facets of the NFIP. Some examples include, "How to Read a Flood Insurance Rate Map," "How to Read a Flood Insurance Study," and "Introduction to Geographic Information System." These and other tutorials can be viewed online at www.fema.gov/fhm/ot_main.shtm.



Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) are being provided to communities participating in the NFIP. DFIRMs are comprised of all digital data required to create a hardcopy Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This includes base map information, graphics, text, shading, and other geographic data required to create the final hardcopy FIRM.

The **Map Viewer** tool on FEMA's Mapping Information Platform (MIP), at <http://hazards.fema.gov/mapviewer>, has flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, and tornado maps that you can search by property address or geographic area.



Printable FIRMettes are available through the online FEMA Flood Map Store at <http://store.msc.fema.gov>. A FIRMette is a printable copy of a portion of a FIRM that is identified by the user. At the FEMA Flood Map Store you may research, view, and purchase the available inventory of NFIP maps and other products.

Q: What is the MHIP?



Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP) **NOW AVAILABLE**

A. The Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP) details the 5-year schedule and budget for developing the updated flood hazard data and maps. By planning flood hazard mapping projects over several years, FEMA provides a venue for tracking progress as flood hazard information is updated nationwide. Communities will now be able to follow the progress of their studies. The MHIP is developed and updated through a collaborative process with local, state, regional and national participants. The plan is based on anticipated funding for Map Modernization for fiscal years 2004 to 2008 and balances national risk management requirements with local community needs.